

STAFFORD STAR

Volume 4, Issue 6

September-October 2008

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Message from Sheriff Jett

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year. Recently there have been many changes and potentially difficult times ahead due to the financial status of Stafford County. Though these times have been predicted to be tough times, I want to ensure Stafford County residents and those passing through Stafford that the Sheriff's Office is committed to maintaining steadfast law enforcement. The Sheriff's Office is here to protect and serve.

We are dedicated to serving the citizens of Stafford County and enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime by embracing our core values: Integrity, Compassion, Fair-

ness, and Professionalism. Financial hard times will affect many things in Stafford and beyond, however, the Sheriff's Office will be working judiciously to maintain and uphold the values and our mission.

Stafford County is an amazing place to live and has developed exponentially in a short period of time. I honestly believe there are many good things in store for the future of Stafford County. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the past, present and future of Stafford County.

We are here for the citizens, let us know if there's something we can be doing for you, something you like that we are doing, and any sug-



gestions you may have for us. We look for your feedback and work hard to satisfy any needs, address concerns, and continue with programs that have received positive feedback.

Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships

Inside this issue:

Ask Crime Prevention—Should I Lock My Car?	2
Kids Spot - Halloween Safety	2
National Night Out 2008 THANK YOU!	3
Business Corner	3
Protecting Youth From Property Crime	4
Raising Awareness of Social Networking Dangers	4
Top 8 Cyber Security Practices	4
MySpace Safety Tips Resource	5
Home Invasion Suspects WANTED	6
Stay Safe at Home	7
Stafford Shredding—November 18	8

October Events:

- Scam Buster's (Business Watch)
October 14 (2PM at PSC)
November 18 (2PM at PSC)
December 9 (2PM at PSC)
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Cyber Security Awareness Month
- Disabilities Awareness Month

November Events:

- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Stafford Shredding (Nov. 18)
- Great American Smokeout (Nov. 20)

PSC—Stafford County Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Road)

www.staffordsheriff.com

Ask Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit would like to answer questions you may have about various law enforcement subjects (such as terminology, D.A.R.E. Program, upcoming events, etc.). If you have any questions, call us at 540-658-4030, fax us at 540-658-4039, or email us at crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us.

Current Threat Level as of October 8, 2008 is Elevated or **YELLOW** Significant Threat of Terrorism

Go to www.dhs.gov for more information.

SHOULD I LOCK MY CAR?

Yes!!!!

The Sheriff's Office receives calls of vehicle larcenies on a regular basis! And the majority of these larcenies occur with vehicles that have been left unlocked!

PLEASE lock your vehicle no matter where it is parked. Many times thieves will stroll neighborhood streets late at night while most are asleep, looking for vehicles that they do not have to work to break into. Do not help a thief! Lock your car!

So you may lock your car, but does your son or daughter? Aunt or uncle? Mom or dad? Grandparents? Cousins? Neighbors? Coworkers? Friends? Spread the word, encourage everyone you know to lock their vehicles whenever they are unoccupied!

It would also help to keep valuables out of the car and secured inside your home. Do not leave things of value in plain view (either take out of the vehicle or secure in the trunk, though it is best to remove anything of value from the car).

Though locking your vehicle may not guarantee it will be "safe" from crime, it is less likely to happen to you! **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE!!**



Visit McGruff online at:

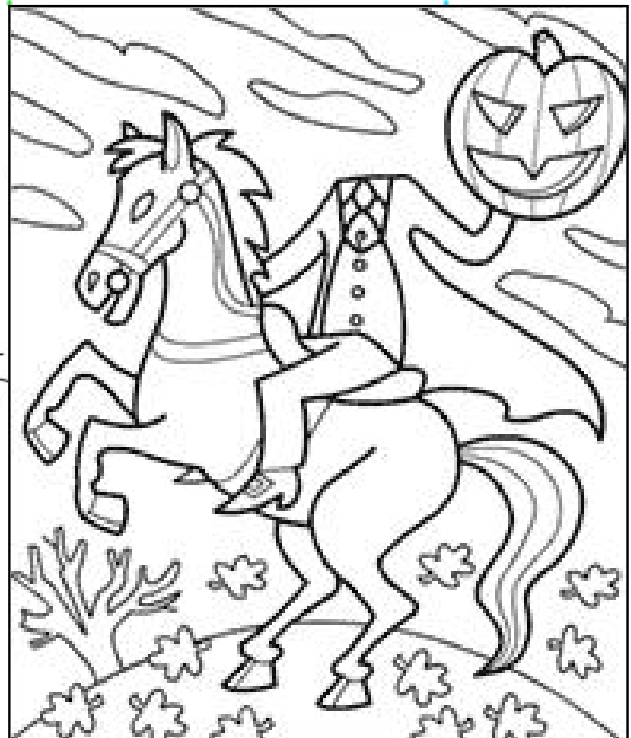
www.McGruff.org

Be Safe on Halloween!

- Never go out trick-or-treating alone
- Stay in well-lighted areas
- Go only to houses you know
- Have your parents check your treats
- Never talk to strangers!



Color Me!



National Night Out 2008

This year's National Night Out events were the best they have ever been! Tuesday, August 7, was a wonderful night of Stafford County citizens out and about in their neighborhoods as well as Stafford Marketplace.

Than you to all of those people that helped make this year's National Night Out GREAT!



COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| Austin Ridge | Harwill Acres |
| Augustine North | Hunters Pond |
| Aventine at Courthouse Square Apartments | Leeland Station |
| Brookstone | Poplar Hills |
| Cannon Ridge | Potomac Hills |
| Clearview Heights | Staffordboro Townhomes |
| Falls Run | Stratford Place |
| Foxwood Village | Stonebridge |
| Garrison Woods | Widewater Village |
| | Woodlawn |

STAFFORD MARKETPLACE EVENT

Aquia Harbour Volunteer Rescue Squad

Target

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| American Red Cross | Security On/Off Site Shredding |
| Aquia Creek Corvette Club | Stafford County Animal Control |
| Best Buy | Stafford County Crime Solvers |
| Borders Bookstore | Stafford County Fire & Rescue |
| Burger King | Stafford Economic Development Office |
| Chick-Fil-A | Stafford Sport & Health |
| George White from the Aquia Harbour Country Club | United States Marines |
| LifeEvac | WFLS Radio |
| Mary Washington Hospital | |
| Mountain View Rescue | |
| Rejuvalase MedSpa | |

Next year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4!



Business Corner

You either work for a business or visit a business almost every day. It is important to be aware of the various crime trends that are occurring in and around Stafford County!

At the **Scam Busters** meetings, area businesses share and learn what the crime trends are in the area. There can be pictures, videos, descriptions, and specific incidents shared! Criminal cases have been solved because of the information shared at this meeting!



Please visit our upcoming Scam Buster Meetings!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| Tuesday, October 14, 2008 | 2PM | Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.) |
| Tuesday, November 18, 2008 | 2PM | Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.) |
| Tuesday, December 9, 2008 | 2PM | Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.) |

HOLIDAY THIEVES WILL BE SCHEMING .. BE PREPARED!

Come to a Scam Busters meeting to learn ... what is happening, what could happen, and how to help prevent loss for your company!

For more information, contact Deputy Jim Hamilton 540-658-4112 or jhamilton@co.stafford.va.us

Protecting Youth From Property Crime

One in six teenagers experiences property crime every year, a rate that is 40% higher than the rate for adults.

Although property crime victims don't experience the level of trauma that violent crime victims do, research has found that juvenile property crime victims experience fear, depression, hostility, and somatic symptoms that persist over an extended time. Most juvenile property crimes happen in school, with 54% occurring on school property. Electronic and photo gear, clothing, and luggage such as backpacks are the most common items stolen from juveniles. Yet property crimes against juveniles are rarely reported to the police. A larceny or theft perpetrated against a juvenile is three times less likely to be reported than one for which an adult is the victim.

Why aren't more juvenile property crimes reported to police? Possible reasons include self-blame by the victim, embarrassment in front of peers, fear of retaliation, and ignorance of crime reporting procedures. Reporting these crimes to police increases the likelihood that property will be recovered and also sends a message that crime will not be tolerated. It is an important way to hold juvenile offenders accountable and reduce the chances that they will continue to commit crimes.

Encourage teenagers to secure their valuables while at school and around other people. If there is stolen property, the victim should at least contact their School Resource Officer to report the incident, at least make record of it. Be sure to record the Serial Number of equipment/merchandise and store in a safe location elsewhere besides school. Teenagers should make an extra effort to keep their valuables in sight and on their person during various events. Also, ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE!



Most juvenile property crimes happen in school, with 54% occurring on school property.

Raising Awareness of Social Networking Dangers

For many students, creating a personal page on a social networking website such as Facebook or MySpace is a form of independence and self-expression. Often these pages read like personal diaries and contain intimate details of the students' lives, including photographs, relationship information, hobbies and interest, and even where they go to school. Many students falsely believe that they are sharing this information only with friends and other students. However, social networking sites only create the illusion of privacy and are in fact accessible to just about anyone who wants to gain access, including parents, school administrators, and law enforcement.

Millions of high school and college students are posting information about themselves without realizing that social networking sites may be dangerous. Pedophiles use social networking sites to find potential victims. Even if a young person doesn't list a physical address or phone number, he or she may provide enough personal information for a pedophile to use to start a relationship over the internet. Many parents do not understand how to monitor their teenagers' use of social networking sites and cannot view these sites because they are password protected.

Top 8 Cyber Security Practices

1. Protect your personal information. It's valuable.
2. Know who you're dealing with online.
3. Use anti-virus software, a firewall, and anti-spy ware software to help keep your computer safe and secure.
4. Be sure to setup your operating system and web browser software properly, and update them regularly.
5. Use strong passwords or strong authentication technology to help protect your personal information.
6. Backup important files.
7. Learn what to do if something goes wrong.
8. Protect your children online.

For more information, visit www.staysafeonline.org

myspace.com a place for friends. Web Search POWERED BY Google

Home Browse People Find People Forums Music Videos More Login Sign Up

myspacesafety

- safety home
- for parents & educators
- for teens
- more resources
- safety videos
- safety tips & settings

These tabs contain a variety of safety tips and information



SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED TIP

Your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces

Don't forget that your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces. Don't post anything you wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., your phone number, address, IM screen names, or specific whereabouts).

[Get more safety tips...](#)

MySpace is a global lifestyle portal that reaches millions of people around the world. It's important to know that you—and each person on the site—play an important role in keeping the community safe.



This site is dedicated to helping you learn how you can keep yourself and your family safe online, and on a lifestyle portal like MySpace. Throughout this site, you will find useful safety information, tips and resources to navigate online communities and to help teach your family and friends to do the same.

MySpace is steadfast in our commitment to keeping people safe online through unique safety features and technology, partnerships with safety organizations and law enforcement, and our support of new laws that will nurture the growth of online safety tools, education and research.

We hope that this site will give you some of the necessary tools and tips to stay safe, and have fun, while online.

Hemanshu Nigam
Chief Security Officer
MySpace

FEATURED EXPERT

Stephen Balkam, fosi.org



Stephen Balkam is the founding CEO of the Family Online Safety Institute, an international organization whose aim is to

www.myspace.com

Click here for many MySpace resources for parents!

HOME INVASION SUSPECTS WANTED



Stafford County Sheriff's Office, with the Assistance of the F.B.I. have released a composite of one of the two suspects involved in the Home Invasion Style Burglary which occurred on Saturday, September 27, 2008, at approximately 1:00 pm on Coal Landing Road, in North Stafford.

The Suspect was described as:

Male, Late Teens to Early 20's, 5'8-5'9, medium-dark complexion, Olive colored skin tone, Medium Build. Spoke with an accent, dressed in Black Wool Cap, Black long sleeve shirt, and pants. He called himself "John".



1



2

Stafford County Sheriff's Office, with the Assistance of the F.B.I. have released a composite of two of the three suspects involved in the Home Invasion Style Burglary which occurred on Saturday, September 27, 2008, at approximately 1:00 pm on Courthouse Road, in North Stafford.

The Suspects are described as:

#1-Male, Early 30's, 5'5-5'8, medium-dark complexion, Olive colored skin tone, Medium Build with brown hair. Dressed in Navy Blue Ball Cap, Short sleeve collared shirt and pants.

#2-White Male, 30's, short and stocky build, light skinned, short and straight sandy colored hair, wearing short sleeved "vertical striped" shirt, and light colored pants.



1

Stafford County Sheriff's Office, with the Assistance of the F.B.I. have released two more composites of the two suspects involved in the Home Invasion Style Burglary which occurred on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, between 12:30- 1:00 pm on White Oak Road, in South Stafford area of the county. Suspect 2 appears to be the same individual who was on Coal Landing Road, but was wearing a blue Baseball Cap in White Oak area, and not a stocking hat as pictured in the composite.

The Suspects are described as:

#1-Male, 25-30 years old, 5'10-6'0, light complexion, Gray Skin-tone, Medium Muscular Build, 180-200 lbs, with dark brown hair. Wearing White Tee-Shirt and jeans. .

#2-Male, late Teens to early 20's, 5'8-5'9, light complexion, Spoke with accent, suspect appeared to match the composite on Coal Landing Road, but was wearing a Navy Blue Cap, White Tee-Shirt, with Navy Blue Long Sleeves.



2

The suspects distracted the elderly homeowners out of their home to show the suspects their property line, and the home was then entered and items stolen from within. The suspects used radios to communicate with one another, and one identified himself on the radio as "Joe"

Anyone who can provide any information as to the identity of these individuals or has any information concerning this case is asked to call Crime Solvers at 540-659-2020, or call Detective D.K. Wood, at the Stafford County Sheriff's Office at 540-658-4727.

STAY SAFE AT HOME

With the recent home invasions that the county has been experiencing the Stafford Sheriff's Office would like to offer some safety tips...



Safety at the door:

- When someone knocks at your door, don't open it unless you know your visitor
- Have a through-the-door viewer installed on each exterior door
- If the person is a representative, salesman, etc ask that identification and credentials be slipped under the door or through the mail slot. Call the employer to verify the name and business. Refuse to deal with anyone who won't comply with this request.
- Someone may knock at your door and ask to use the telephone to make an emergency call; Never open the door: Take the message and make the call for them.
- If someone comes to your door that you do not trust or who you believe might be dangerous, call 911 immediately

The Schemes:

- They offer free home inspections or survey
- They may distract the homeowner and subsequently burglarize the home
- Popular home improvement schemes include roofing, driveway repair, plumbing repairs, tree trimming and checking water pressure
- Most recent scheme: persons acting as county employees checking a water problem in your home (call employer and verify their information).

Prevention:

- Be skeptical of contractors who solicit business door-to-door
- Insist on seeing a contractor's license. These are necessary in most states even for jobs like resurfacing a driveway or patching a roof
- Ask to see references for the contractor and check them out
- Don't allow strangers inside your home for any reason
- Pay as little money as possible up front
- Obtain several written estimates for a proposed repair job
- If there is a door that leads from your garage directly into the house, make sure that it is locked and secured
- Do not keep large amounts of cash in your home

Life-saving tips should you become a victim of a home invasion robbery:

- Stay calm.
- Cooperate. No amount of cash or property is worth getting hurt over.
- Don't fight back. Instead, concentrate on getting information so you can be an effective witness.
- Look carefully at the intruders, even if they are masked. Is there something unique about them such as scars, tattoos, eye color, accents, large or small facial features such as nose or ears? Pay attention to what they are wearing, what color is their clothing and any distinguishing writing or brands on shirts, hats, or shoes. Listen to everything they say, and how they say it. Catch any distinguishing odors such as tobacco, alcohol, or aftershave.

The Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit has cell phones available for senior citizens who do not have a landline/cell phone. Cell phones provided by the Sheriff's Office can only dial 911.

EMERGENCY 911 • Non-Emergency 540-658-4400 • Website www.staffordsheriff.com

INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • FAIRNESS • PROFESSIONALISM

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff Charles E. Jett

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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the community, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime.

We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As leaders of the community,
we will embrace our core beliefs:

Integrity, Compassion, Fairness, and Professionalism

Crime Doesn't Pay - Crime Solvers Does!

659-2020



Sponsored by:

BB&T and benefiting **Stafford Crime Solvers**

Stafford Shredding

Drive-thru
style!!!

Saturday, November 8

9 a.m. – Noon

BB&T Bank (117 Garrisonville Rd., Stafford)



*100lbs. of shredding
material per person*



Shredding provided by: **SOS Shredding** (www.SOSshredding.com)
Contact **Sergeant Darrell English** with questions **540/658-4428**